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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/997,081	11/28/2001	John Charles Clark	57255US002	6096

32692 7590 11/10/2004

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EXAMINER

MAYEKAR, KISHOR

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1753

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/997,081

Applicant(s)

CLARK ET AL.

Examiner

Kishor Mayekar

Art Unit

1753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's response filed on 16 August 2004 to the second non-final Office action is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BOCCACCINI et al. in view of BETT et al. (5,840,414), for reasons as of record.
4. Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ILLSTON et al. (5,554,271) in view of BETT et al. (5,840,414), for reasons as of record.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 16 August 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

As asserted by the Examiner in the last Office action, BOCCACCINI discloses all the steps as claimed except for the hydrophilic property of the ceramic-coated fiber and BETT shows that when a porous carbon plate is coated with particles of aluminum oxide or silica the coated carbon plate becomes highly wettable by water. It is clear from BETT's teachings that the pores in the carbon body when filled with metal oxide particles render the carbon body hydrophilic. As such the prima facie case of obviousness has been established.

Applicant also argues that BETT is inapposite to the present claims as BETT nowhere teaches a process of electrophoretic deposition. Since BETT discloses in

col. 5, lines 49-52 the electrophoretic deposition of the particles within the pores of the porous carbon body, BETT is pertinent.

To the argument that BETT nowhere teaches the use of ZrO_2 , as claimed in claim 6, since claim 6 is a dependent of claim 1 and claim 1 recites the metal oxide selected from Type I or Type II, the claims are rejected based on Type I.

To the argument that BETT nowhere teaches a hydrophilic carbon fiber construction capable of wicking 200 mg or 250 mg of water per 40 mg, as recited in claims 10 and 11, respectively, since BOCCACCINI discloses the electrophoretic deposition of particles in one example with particles of 40 nm average particle size, a voltage of up to 60V and the deposit thickness/weight vs the deposition time, BOCCACCINI's process with a similar operating condition will yield a composite with the recited wicked ability. Further, it has been held that "similar processes can reasonably be expected to yield products which inherently have the same properties, *In re Spada* 15 USPQ 2d 1655; *In re DeBlauwe* 222 USPQ 191; *In re Wiegand* 86 USPQ 155.

To the argument that ILLSTON fails to teach the use of a carbon-fiber construction, ILLSTON shows the use of a matt of woven or non-woven carbon-coated fibers to be considered as a carbon fiber construction.

To the arguments that nowhere teaches the limitations of claims 6, 10 and 11, the same as set forth in the paragraph is applied to the limitation of claims 6, 10 and 11.

Conclusion

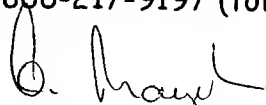
6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kishor Mayekar whose telephone number is (571) 272-1339. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kishor Mayekar
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1753